AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An automated method of composing a virtual book from a set of electronically stored documentation comprising multiple books, the method comprising:

identifying a plurality of topics based on the chapter and section headings in the documentation, wherein each said topic is associated with a portion of the documentation;

determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said structure indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;

classifying each of said topics within one or more categories;

receiving a subject for a virtual book;

composing said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are relevant to said subject, and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said associated portion of the documentation, wherein the virtual book can be stored for future access.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising searching said topics for a set of topics relevant to said subject.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said relevant topics are grouped in said virtual book by said categories.

1   4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a

2 first category are listed in the order of their relevance to said subject.

1   5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a

2 first category are listed in the order they occur within the documentation.

1   6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying index

2 entries in the documentation.

1   7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said index entries are

2 included in said virtual book.

1   8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sorting said

2 relevant topics according to their relevance to said topic.

1   9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said categories include one

2 or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference and troubleshooting.

1   10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composing comprises:

2   identifying a characteristic of a viewer of said virtual book; and

3   customizing said virtual book for the viewer on the basis of said

4 characteristic.

1   11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic is one

2 of the set of: employment role and level of experience.

1   12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic

2   comprises a level of experience of the user and said customizing comprises

3   omitting one or more of said categories from said virtual book.

1   13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic

2   comprises an employment role of the user and said customizing comprises

3   implementing said role as another category of said virtual book.

1   14. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of generating a

2   virtual electronic book from a set of electronic documentation comprising

3   multiple books stored in multiple files, comprising:

4   storing physical attributes of the multiple files in a database;

5   identifying topics based on the chapter and section headings within the

6   documentation, wherein each said topic comprises a heading within one of the

7   multiple files;

8   associating unique identifiers with each of said topics;

9   storing said topics in said database;

10   for each of said stored topics:

11   storing in said database a reference to a first book containing said topic;

12   storing in said database a reference to a first file containing said topic;

13   storing in said database a reference to a parent topic of said topic, if any, in

14   the first book; and

15   storing in said database a reference to a child topic of said topic, if any, in

16   the first book;

17   categorizing each of said stored topics into one or more pre-determined

18   categories, wherein each of said categories represents a type of topic;

19   receiving a subject for a virtual book;

20   searching said stored topics for topics relevant to the subject; and

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21   presenting said virtual book to a viewer, wherein said virtual book

22 comprises said relevant topics grouped according to said categories; and

23   storing said virtual book for future access.

1   15. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing

2   instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an

3   automated method of composing a virtual book from a set of electronically stored

4   documentation comprising multiple books, the method comprising:

5   identifying a plurality of topics based on the chapter and section headings

6   in the documentation, wherein each said topic is associated with a portion of the

7   documentation;

8   determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said structure

9   indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;

10   classifying each of said topics within one or more categories;

11   receiving a subject for a virtual book;

12   composing said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are

13 relevant to said subject, and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said

14 associated portion of the documentation, wherein the virtual book can be stored

15 for future access.

1   16. (Canceled).

1   17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for producing a virtual book,

2   comprising:

3   a set of electronic documentation files;

4   a topic module configured to identify a set of topics based on the chapter

5   and section headings within said documentation, wherein each said topic

6   comprises a heading appearing in said documentation;

7   a structural analysis module configured to determine a hierarchy of said

8   topics within said documentation;

9   a categorizer configured to classify a first of said topics into one or more

10   predetermined categories;

11   a database configured to store said topics, said hierarchy and said

12   classifications; ~~and~~

13   a processor configured to produce a virtual book comprising a subset of

14   said set of topics, wherein said subset of said topics is relevant to a subject of said

15   virtual book<u>; and</u>

16   <u>a storage device for storing said virtual book.</u>

1   18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a network

2   server configured to present said virtual book to a user.

1   19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an index

2   module configured to assemble index entries referring to said relevant topics

3   within said documentation.

1   20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said processor is further

2   configured to customize said virtual book on the basis of one of a role of a viewer

3   of said virtual book and a level of experience of the viewer.

1   21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said categories include

2   one or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference, troubleshooting, role

3   of a viewer of said virtual book and level of experience of the viewer.